

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06525 250546Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-08 MCE-00
ACDA-07 IO-13 /113 W
-----018016 250548Z /12

R 250440Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9673
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6525

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SO, UR
SUBJECT: SIAD AND SOVIET PRESENCE

REF: MOGADISCIO 1619

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP WITH AHMED SIRAJ, DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN-ASIAN DEPARTMENT IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON SEPTEMBER 24. SIRAJ SAID THAT PURPOSE OF SIAD'S TRIP WAS THREE FOLD: (1) TO ACQUAINT ARAB GOVERNMENTS PERSONALLY WITH SITUATION IN SOMALIA AND HORN OF AFRICA, (2) TO GET AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS HE COULD FROM THE ARABS, AND (3) TO REQUEST STEPPED-UP SAUDI MEDIA-TION WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR AID. SIRAJ WAS NOT VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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FORTHCOMING ON THE RESULTS OF SIAD'S TRIP, BUT HE DID SAY THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT SIAD HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING SYMPATHY OF THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND PERHAPS SOME INCREASE IN AID. HE WENT ON TO COMPLAIN THAT USG HAD LET SIAD DOWN BY NOT GIVING HIM AID. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS OPPORTUNITY TO CURTAIL SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE HORN AND IN THE RED SEA AREA BY FREEING SOMALIS FROM DEPENDENCE ON

THE SOVIETS. SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND WE MUST NOT LET THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER PROGRESS SLIP BY. POLITICAL COUNSELOR WENT OVER REASONS WHY USG HAD POSTPONED IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION TO ASSIST SOMALIS. SIRAJ SAID THAT USG SHOULD EXTEND ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN AID AT LEAST. HE EMPHASIZED WORDS "AT LEAST" AND ADDED THAT HIS STATEMENT WAS OFFICIAL SAUDI VIEW. IN REPLY TO DIRECT QUESTION, HE SAID SAUDI AID TO SOMALIA WAS GOING TO BE INCREASED BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE. HE UNDERLINED COMMITMENT BY SAYING "WE DO NOT PLAN TO LOSE WHAT WE HAVE GAINED."

2. SIRAJ SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT SIAD WOULD MAKE ANY DRAMATIC STATEMENTS IN NEXT FEW DAYS KICKING SOVIETS OUT OF SOMALIA. HE DID NOT THINK SIAD COULD AFFORD TO DO THIS IN ABSENCE OF ASSURANCES THAT USG WOULD STEP IN TO REPLACE USSR AS MILITARY SUPPLIER. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID THAT ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISORS REMAINING IN SOMALIA WAS NOT VERY LARGE AND HE WONDERED WHETHER SIAD REALLY WANTED TO GET RID OF THE REST OF THEM. SIRAJ REPEATED HIS ARGUMENT THAT SIAD COULD NOT FREE HIMSELF ENTIRELY OF SOVIETS UNTIL HE HAD ALTERNATE MILITARY SUPPLIER.
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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